



straight to the heart

DR. JOHANNA SQUIRE TALKS HEARTWORM

What is heartworm?

Heartworm is a tropical parasite that your dog can catch. Mosquitoes spread heartworm from other infected dogs to your dog. Even if your dog does not play with other dogs, a mosquito bite can still put a heartworm larva into his blood. This larva is like a tiny heartworm in his blood. After a few months this larva attaches to the inside of his heart and grows into an adult worm.

Adult heartworms are 15 - 30 cm long. They make it hard for your dog's heart to pump blood properly. After a few months this can cause enough damage to give him heart failure and he may even die.

How do you prevent it?

Once your dog has caught heartworm it can be difficult and expensive to treat him. It's much better to give him medicine that prevents him from developing adult worms inside his heart. There are different types of medicines to kill the larva heartworm in his blood before they grow into adult worms.

The easiest way to protect him from heartworm is an injection that the vet can give him once every year. You can also buy him prevention tablets that you give him every day or once a month. It depends on which sort you buy. However a dog can get extremely sick if you give him tablets when he has already has heartworm. It is safest to get the vet to give him a heartworm test before you give him prevention tablets. The test only takes a few minutes.

How do you treat it?

A dog with bad heartworm will show the same symptoms of heart failure. He will have pale gums because his blood is not circulating properly. He will find it hard to do exercise. Also he may cough and sometimes have a bloated belly because the worms living inside his heart make it hard for it to do its job properly.

TALK TO YOUR VET: PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN TREATMENT

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH DR. JO

THURSDAY ISLAND:

March 30th & 31st March. Contact Torres Shire Council for bookings Ph. 4069 1336

CAIRNS:

Dr. Jo's mobile service Ph. 0408 779 820



Jo Squire Mobile Vet



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